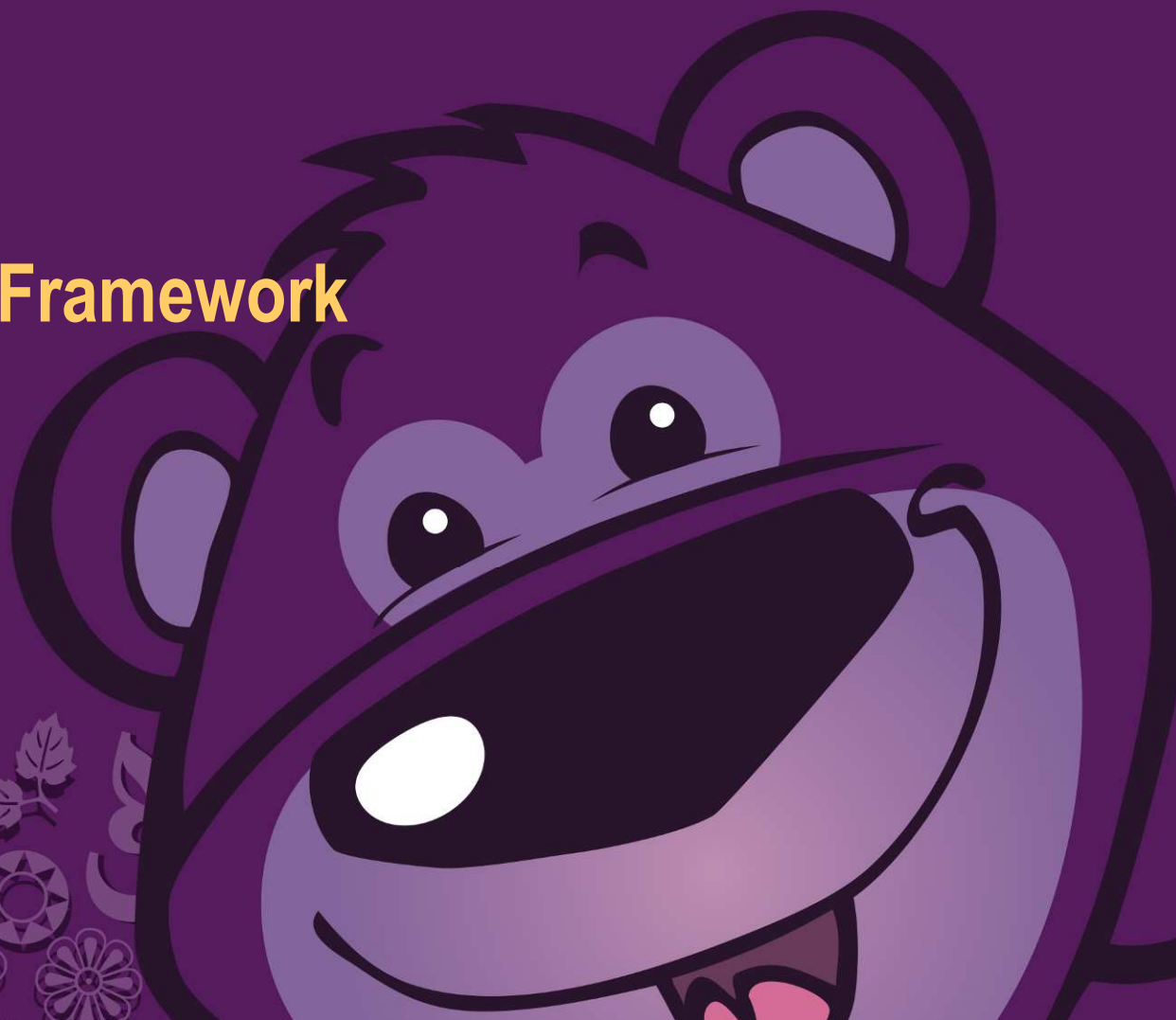




An Introduction to the Better Buddies Framework





The Alannah and Madeline Foundation



- The Alannah and Madeline Foundation is a national charity **keeping children safe from violence**. We care for children who have experienced or witnessed serious violence and run programs which help prevent violence in the lives of children. In 2007 the Foundation celebrated 10 years of caring.
- The Foundation was set up in memory of Alannah and Madeline Mikac, aged 6 and 3, who with their mother and 32 others were tragically killed at Port Arthur on April 28, 1996.
- International Patron: Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary of Denmark.
- National Patron: Prime Minister The Hon. Kevin Rudd MP.
- Patron: Co-Founder Walter Mikac.

Structure

The Alannah
and Madeline
Foundation



Keeping children safe from violence

CARE

Programs that provide care

PREVENTION

Programs to prevent violence

ADVOCACY

Research, Education
Leading change

Communications

Ensuring The Alannah and Madeline Foundation's message is heard

Funds Development

Raising funds for The Alannah and Madeline Foundation's programs

Operations

Enabling the work of The Alannah and Madeline Foundation



Sponsorship



- The Better Buddies Framework has received support from a number of sources:
 - Councils
 - Foundations
 - Community Groups
 - NAB
- NAB
 - Supports community partnerships by encouraging their representatives to become involved in Better Buddy events in schools
 - Provided extra resources to schools

proud partner



What is a Buddy System?



A Buddy System is designed to:

- Ease transition by assisting the younger students' first year of schooling and ease their transition.
- It builds a unique relationship and link between the incoming students and the students in the last years of their schooling.
- Provide activities aimed at younger buddies.
- Older buddies are learning much by being leaders, teachers, and mentors to the younger students.
- Schools are encouraged to extend a peer support structure to the rest of the school.

A Buddy System is different to other cross age and peer support structures. However, other structures can support the values of our Buddy System.



What do Buddy Systems do?



- Promote friendship and support between buddies through regular collaboration between their classes.
- Fosters a sense of whole-school community by building unique relationships.

Key Characteristics

- Participation of older students in positive, supportive one-on-one relationships with younger students
- Create feelings of connectedness that enable 'buddies' to bond more closely with their school.
- Provide a psychologically safe environment.
- Increase the likelihood of more positive school behaviour and less bullying.

What is the Better Buddies Framework?



- Introduction or delivery of a buddies system into primary schools.
- Older children “buddy up” with younger children.
- Research based.
- Teaches positive behaviours and values.
- Develop safe and caring school communities.



Better Buddies Values

Through structured activities the following values are taught, encouraged and developed:

- Caring for others
- Friendliness
- Responsibility
- Including Others
- Respect
- Valuing Difference



Elements of Better Buddies Framework



- The Framework
 - Teachers Manual
 - Teaching Ideas and Activities
 - Buddy Training
- Evaluation Materials
- Ongoing support for The Alannah and Madeline Foundation



How Better Buddies works



- Formal structured time with a teacher/s present
- Less formal, unstructured time
- Four special events:
 - Better Buddies Welcome
 - Better Buddies Games
 - Better Buddies Book Week
 - Better Buddies Celebration



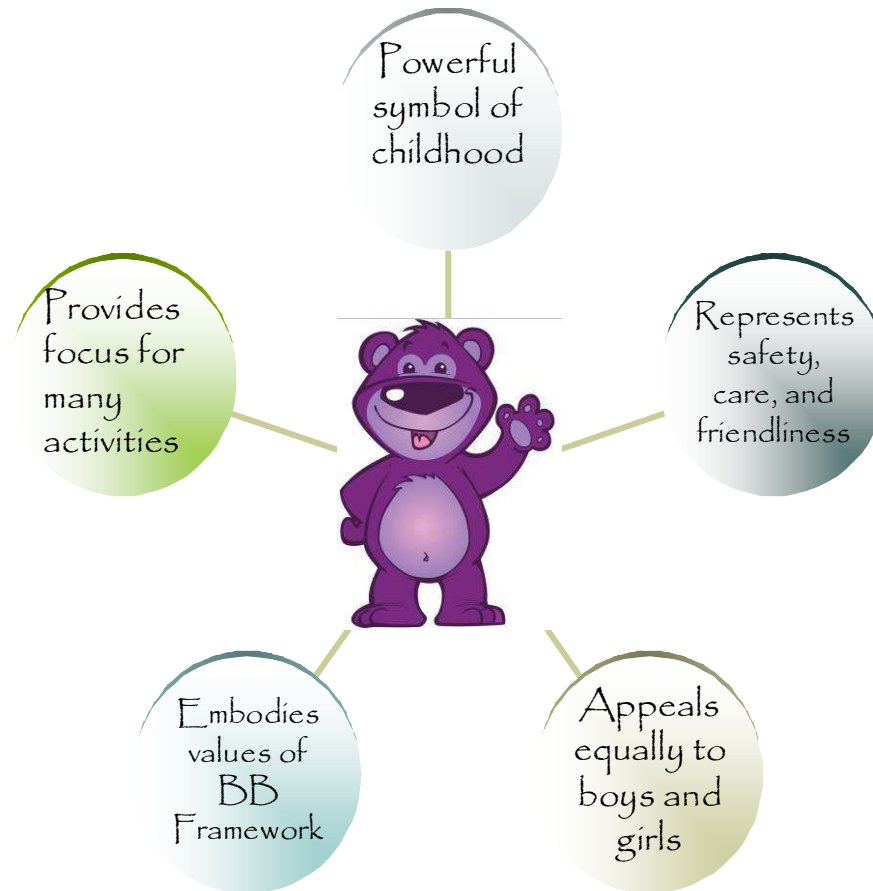
Who are Buddy Bear & Little Buddy?

- Buddy Bear is a purple teddy bear who conveys the message 'I'm special because I care about others'.
- Little Buddy is a smaller yellow bear – Buddy Bear's buddy!



- Buddy Bear is the embodiment of the values of the Framework.
- In Western cultures, teddy bears are still a powerful symbol of childhood.

Why use Buddy Bear?



Core features

- Aids transition into school
- Positive cross-age relationships
 - Develops social skills and confidence
 - Provides opportunities for peer tutoring
 - Teaches pro-social values
 - Develops responsibility
 - Builds self confidence
 - Develops empathy
 - Promotes inclusion
- Create a pro-social atmosphere in the playground
- Helps children develop resilience
- Discourages bullying

Why is “Better Buddies” better?



- Based on recent research
- Teaches the key pro-social skills and values
- Buddy activities are prepared by teachers for teachers
- It uses a special structure – ‘understudy buddies’
- Leadership training for children



Better Buddies Research

Five effective features of buddy systems

1. Cooperative Group Work
 - Helps form friendships and social helping behaviours
2. Peer tutoring
 - Structured sessions
3. Age difference between buddies
 - At least 3 years
4. Effective planning and preparation
 - Integrated into whole school functioning and policies
5. Teacher commitment
 - Commitment and awareness of buddy program is important to success



How does the Better Buddies Framework support anti-bullying?



- Contribute to social and emotional learning
- Increase student esteem
- Improve school climate
- Contribute to the development of caring learning communities
- Develops unique relationships
 - Student-Student,
 - Teacher-Student
- Makes learning more interesting and fun when buddied



Call For Action

Key Events for Whole School Focus



- **February** – Better Buddies Welcome
- **May** – Better Buddies Games
- **August** – Better Buddies Book Week
- **December** – Better Buddies Celebration
- **December** – Better Buddies Training of Seniors
- **December** – Better Buddies Prep Transition



What do kids say about Better Buddies?



**“Better Buddies makes people feel
safe and special”**



What do kids say about Better Buddies?

The Alannah
and Madeline
Foundation



Keeping children safe from violence

“It makes me feel **proud** that I can **support** the younger student when they are having problems”



What do kids say about Better Buddies?

“Littler kids get to learn about **respect** and other things.

And sometimes the older kids need to learn **respect** sometimes too.”



What do kids say about Better Buddies?

The Alannah
and Madeline
Foundation



Keeping children safe from violence

“The younger ones have someone bigger to make them **feel comfortable** with the school and their surroundings. And to **have fun** with them.”



What do kids say about Better Buddies?

The Alannah
and Madeline
Foundation



Keeping children safe from violence

“If the little ones are hurt or need cheering up they can always come to us for help and it is a good responsibility.”



What do kids say about Better Buddies?

The Alannah
and Madeline
Foundation



Keeping children safe from violence

“Being a buddy is **important** to me because I **remember** how important it was for me to have a buddy in prep.”



What do kids say about Better Buddies?



**“You can help other students younger than you
feel safe at school. Also you can help them
make new friends.”**



What do kids say about Better Buddies?

The Alannah
and Madeline
Foundation



Keeping children safe from violence

“I **learnt** that working with younger students can be **fun** but also **hard**.”



The Alannah
and Madeline
Foundation



Keeping children safe from violence

Better Buddies

Creating friendly and caring schools



For more information contact The Alannah and Madeline Foundation www.amf.org.au